

Report of Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Natural Resource Conservation Cost Share Program



DNR

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

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Report of Fiscal Year 1999-2000

Natural Resource Conservation Cost Share Program

Funding Background:

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Districts of South Carolina have implemented a State-funded conservation cost share program to assist rural and urban land users in addressing local natural resource concerns that involve non point source pollution. Funding was initially requested by DNR at the \$1 million level in the fiscal year 1999-2000 budget. During the legislative review, it was first reduced to \$690,000 and then cut from the recurring budget. It was restored to the Supplemental Budget to be funded at \$690,000 from non-recurring funds. Each District received \$15,000. The \$690,000 was matched by another \$1,636,000 from individual landowners and users, non-profit organizations, local government units, and the US Department of Agriculture. Over 391 projects were approved for a combined total of \$2,326,318.

In the fiscal year 2000-2001, funds were again requested, but moved to the non-recurring budget. Initially, the funds were #54 on the list of priorities to be funded, but the Conference Committee raised them to #37. Supplemental funds were only available to fund through the 29th item on the list so no cost share funds were received for the current fiscal year.

DNR has requested \$690,000 in the recurring budget for Conservation Cost Share in fiscal year 2001-2002. The South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD) supports raising the amount to \$2 million. Funds for projects amounting to over \$10 million have been requested in the 46 counties. These are projects that the US Department of Agriculture has been unable to fund. If the state cost share program is fully funded, additional funds can be requested from USDA.

Program Description:

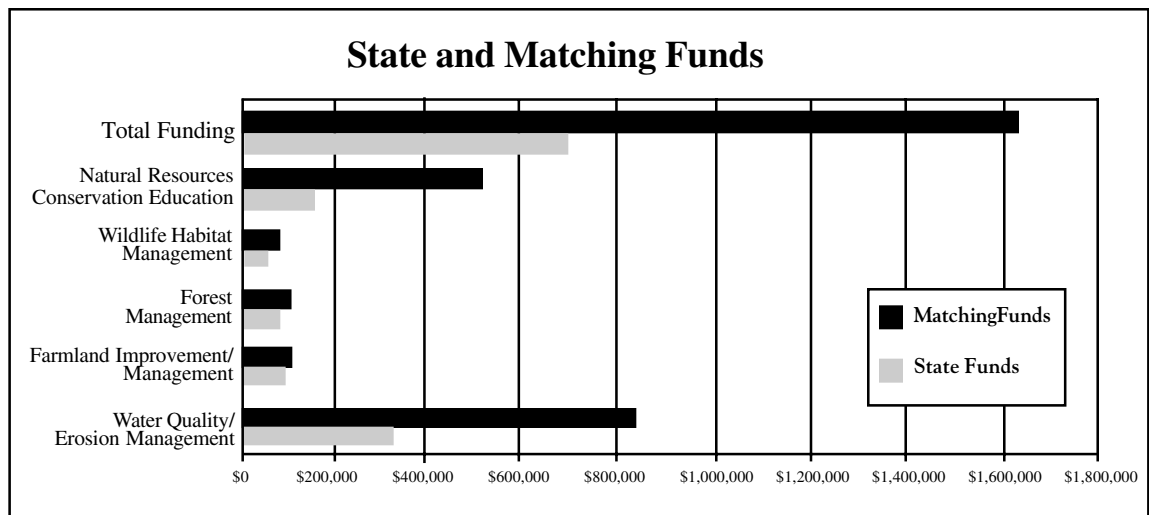
This cost share program is administered by and through the local Soil and Water Conservation District. South Carolina's 46 Conservation Districts are subdivisions of state government. Each Conservation District has a governing board of five commissioners - three elected

in the General Election and two appointed by the DNR Board. They serve without compensation. The Commissioners are local citizens who know local problems. The Districts are organized to address natural resource concerns and provide technical and educational assistance to the citizens in each of the 46 counties.

Problems addressed by the cost share program fall into five broad categories: Water Quality and Erosion Management which specifically addresses non point source runoff and stormwater; Farmland Improvement and Management which addresses better management practices on farms to lessen or eliminate potential for harmful runoff; Forest Management which addresses reforestation and thereby decreases erosion; Wildlife Habitat Management to increase the area for the state's wildlife; and Natural Resources Conservation Education projects to teach the public about how to preserve the natural beauty we enjoy in South Carolina.

The impact of this program is recognized by better use of agricultural lands, the potential for reducing the sediment that clogs small streams, the continuance of the abundance of wildlife, and maintenance of the ecology that tourists and residents alike may enjoy.

The chart below shows the expenditure of state funds as compared with the matching funds in each of the five categories.



Why should we support a natural resources Conservation Cost Share program? As can be seen from the chart above and the project descriptions to follow, with very limited funds, a number of South Carolina citizens received benefits that would not have

occurred if the General Assembly had not provided funding for this program. State provided funds are matched with an equal or larger amount of local funds or in-kind services, thereby at least doubling the original State investment and ensuring local participation. A State cost share program can result in Conservation Districts leveraging additional funds from federal, state and local sources. Also it can qualify South Carolina for Federal Farm Bill funding through the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). South Carolina competes with all states for a share of this additional funding. According to the National Association of State Conservation Agencies, 30 states offer some type of conservation cost share program, ranging from agricultural and water quality to urban erosion and storm water control programs. The total investment nationwide is over \$202 million.

Program Eligibility:

Program rules have been developed in each Conservation District that describe their priorities and the process that must be followed to obtain funding.

- **Applications:** Each Conservation District announces availability of funding to the general public. The individual seeking funding prepares an application form that is reviewed and approved/disapproved by the Conservation District commissioners.
- **Reporting:** Applicants are responsible for providing a report of their expenditures and results before a check is written to them from the Conservation District.
- **Fund balances:** Funds not obligated in the year they are appropriated may be distributed to other Districts with unfunded needs. Funds not expended in the fiscal year appropriated may be carried over subject to approval by DNR's Land, Water and Conservation Division.

Project Descriptions:

On the following pages, the projects that have been funded are summarized. Because of processing time with matching funds that had to be reviewed and drought conditions in 1999, some of the projects were delayed. Summaries of projects funded and the amount of unfunded amounts due to lack of funds are listed by Conservation District.

ABBEVILLE

Five cost share participants have completed their practices in Abbeville County. Donald Ray planted

14 acres of Bermuda grass for pasture improvement. Total cost of his practice was \$1,890. He received \$945 in cost share funds. Archie Beaufort and James Ellis planted and mulched critical areas on their properties and installed water bars to slow down water flow and reduce soil erosion. Their total cost for both properties was \$4,104. They received a total of \$2,052 in cost share funds. Clyde Kirkpatrick installed waterlines and tanks to provide alternative water sources for livestock. He was able to fence his cattle out of streams, thus resulting in improved water quality. Total cost of his practices was \$2,080. He received \$1,040 in cost share funds. Gerald Milford received \$1,680 in cost share funds to plant his pasture to fescue using a no-till drill to reduce soil erosion and water loss. All cost share funds were matched on a 50-50 basis with money, in-kind services, and donated labor and supplies.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Abbeville County amount to \$85,000.

AIKEN

The District cost-shared with the Soil and Water Society of South Carolina. The Society conducted three workshops and working sessions for a total cost of \$10,974. The District cost share amount was \$1,800. \$9,174 came from match by individuals, a non-profit organization, and businesses. One of Aiken's District Forestry projects is completed and waiting final review. Jefferson Elementary erosion control education project is completed and waiting final review. This was a cost-share grant of \$1,000. The \$5,000 grant to Belvedere Elementary has not been completed.

The Aiken District has several cost share projects that have extension requests primarily because of drought conditions. Several projects were completed and are waiting review from the District Board before final payments are made.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Aiken County amount to \$193,000.

ALLENDALE

The District put the bulk (\$10,600) of their cost-share money toward the first Convenience Site in Allendale County. The total cost of this site is estimated at \$100,000. It is hoped once the sites are established throughout the county that the amount of litter on the roads will decrease. The county matched the \$80,400 with labor and materials.

The Allendale Green Project, which replaced the Rural Roads Project, is a grass-roots effort aimed at cleaning up the Town of Allendale. The district awarded them \$1,550 of state cost share funds. The total cost of this

project is \$80,000. An architect designed the park and street areas. A local sod farm donated all the sod. A local nursery donated trees, shrubs, and flowers. The town paid for mulch and the sprinkler system. Volunteers have planted and/or built everything. More than fifty volunteers donated many hours of community service.

The balance of the money, \$2,850, was used on a 50-50 cost sharing basis to the Fairfax Garden Club and Fairfax Elementary School. The Town of Fairfax matched the Garden Club grant with donated labor and materials for Triangle Park. Fairfax Elementary revamped their outdoor learning area. The art class designed the learning area, and parents, teachers, and students worked to create what the children designed. It included plant species important to wildlife, water sources (bird baths, etc.), and shelter (squirrel boxes, birdhouses). The school district matched the cost share funds.

Totals funds used for the four funded projects was \$182,000, equaling a 12:1 return on state cost share.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Allendale County amount to \$95,000.

ANDERSON

Five cost share participants have completed their practices in Anderson. Catherine Tacyne installed waterbars on a highly eroded access road to divert water and reduce soil erosion. She also installed fences, heavy use areas, and water tanks. These practices provide alternative water sources for livestock while reducing streambank erosion and improving water quality. Total cost of practices was \$4,018. Mrs. Tacyne received \$2,009 in cost share money.

Eddie King and Ned McGill also implemented practices to provide alternative water sources for livestock. Their practices included spring development and installing fencing and water tanks. They are now able to rotate cattle away from heavily used areas resulting in more productive use of pastureland while protecting vulnerable streamside areas. Total cost for practices: (King - \$2,832.50 / cost share \$1,416.25) (McGill - \$3,766.50 / cost share \$1,883.25). Mike Brown planted his eroding, sloped pasture with Bermuda grass to reduce soil erosion and improve pasture productivity. Total cost for his planting \$945. He received \$472 of cost share funding.

Patrick O'Dell installed cross fencing, water tanks and heavy use areas to allow more efficient use of his pastureland. He was able to fence his cattle out of the stream while still providing an adequate water supply.

These practices will also reduce streambank erosion and improve water quality. Total cost of practices was \$7,556. He received \$3,778 in cost share funding. All cost share funds were matched on a 50-50 basis with money, in-kind services, and donated labor and supplies.

Three other participants have an extension due to drought conditions to complete their practices which include: fencing, installing heavy use areas and water tanks, mulching, and repairing a spillway on a pond.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Anderson County amount to \$180,000.

BAMBERG

The Bamberg Conservation District's projects could not be started because the land owner sold the property. The District is in the process of obtaining a lease with the option to buy the property to start another outdoor learning center in this District.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Bamberg County amount to \$35,000.

BARNWELL

Two of Barnwell County's cost share projects have been completed and both of them are Conservation Education projects. One project was located at Kelly Edwards Elementary School in Williston. The District helped fund an Outdoor Classroom on the schools grounds. The Conservation District provided \$900 for the project. Total project cost was \$3,511. The other completed project was an Outdoor Classroom at Macedonia Elementary School in Blackville. The District approved \$4,700 in cost share funds to build a kiosk and equipment with educational displays. The Macedonia School project total cost was \$10,000. Funding which resulted in a match higher than a 50-50 basis was received from the schools, in-kind services from volunteers, and donations from local businesses.

Two other projects in Barnwell County are to be completed in the spring. Construction on the Harris Road Project is under way. Total project cost is estimated between \$11,000 and \$15,000. The stormwater control project in Williston is to be completed in the spring, with a projected total cost in excess of \$10,000. State cost share funds have been obligated for \$4,700 and the remainder of the cost will be paid by the county and the town of Williston. All of the Barnwell County projects were in accordance with the District's desire to use the public money on public projects.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Barnwell County amount to \$125,000.

BEAUFORT



BEAUFORT COUNTY AND TOWN OF BLUFFTON STORMWATER PROJECTS

The Joy Street Project was cost shared between the District and Beaufort County, for a total project cost of \$30,000. The Town of Bluffton had a similar project at a smaller scale.



NORTH STREET AQUARIUM

Provided marine resource education to Bluffton Elementary and Whale Branch Elementary Schools.

“All educators know that children learn better with hands on experiences and that’s just what we had with the aquarium.”



RavesBarbara
Mazanna IBPYP Coordinator/EXCELS

Total funds used for six projects were \$53,000. That’s a 3.5:1 return.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Beaufort County amount to \$10,000.

BERKELEY

The Berkeley District was excited to sponsor an innovative approach to protecting water quality through the Bat House at Cypress Gardens Interpretive Center.

Providing nesting habitat for these eager little insectivores will reduce the potential use of pesticides and any such runoff in this sensitive 60 acre cypress swamp and its 153 acres of associated wetlands which is near the Cooper River.



Though it will take time for a large colony of bats to move in, the idea has already created interest by other counties to duplicate.

The Berkeley Conservation District provided support to facilitate a Conservation Easement by DuPont on their Cooper River Business Community Site in Berkeley County.

The Result was a Conservation Easement protecting 1,186 acres of important habitat in the Cooper River System, ten miles of water quality protection through riparian buffers along the Cooper River, Durham Creek and Cypress Gardens Swamp, a major contribution to the Berkeley Greenspace Initiative System, and a permanent gift to the future generations of Berkeley County. The District contributed \$1,000 of state cost share funds that were matched by approximately \$63,000.

State conservation cost share funds have enabled the Berkeley Conservation District to partner with Berkeley County and The Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust to sponsor the development of a greenspace plan for Berkeley County.

The plan has identified approximately 200,000 acres of important natural resources and habitat that are vital to the aesthetics and quality of life of Berkeley County citizens. The Greenspace Plan recommends cooperation of people, government and the business community using voluntary methods in concert with the wishes of property owners to successfully achieve these goals. The Greenspace plan is well received by Berkeley's citizenry and is praised as the model for the State of South Carolina by many.

Protection of habitat has already begun through conservation easements and memoranda of understanding. \$5,000 of state cost share money was awarded and matched with \$31,000 from the county and the trust.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Berkeley County amount to \$226,000.

CALHOUN

The Calhoun Conservation District's projects could not be started because the land owner sold the property. The District is in the process of obtaining a lease with the option to buy property to start another outdoor learning center in this District.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Calhoun County amount to \$25,000.

CHARLESTON

The Charleston Conservation District has awarded \$2,383 in aerial photography to Charleston County. The county contributed with equal matching funds of \$2,383 for this project.

The Charleston Conservation District awarded \$500 to Project Impact for the Sand Dune Stabilization Project. Equal funds of \$500 were matched by Project Impact.

The Charleston Conservation District awarded \$2,500 to Mt. Pleasant Waterworks for the Alhambra Hall riparian buffer project in Mt. Pleasant. This site is a highly visible public site on the Mt. Pleasant site of Charleston Harbor and is intended as a demonstration site for landowners to visually learn about the environmental and economic benefits of a native buffer system along any waterway. Mt. Pleasant Waterworks matched with \$8,829.

Other projects not yet completed are Part II Alhambra Hall Project at \$2,000 that is being matched with \$2,000 by the Mt. Pleasant Waterworks; Boy Scout erosion project at \$2,617 that is matched by the Boy

Scouts of America by \$2,617; and the urban buffer technical guidebook project at \$5,000 that is being matched by DHEC's Office of Coastal Resource Management for \$5,000.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Charleston County amount to \$77,500.

CHEROKEE

The Cherokee District funded four requests. Two projects converted cropland to permanent vegetation with state cost share funding of \$8,065 and matched with \$8,463 from the landowners. An erosion control, wildlife enhancement, and water quality project that will save 24 tons of soil annually was funded with \$5,685 of state cost share and \$8,306 from the landowner. \$1,250 of cost share funds was spent on conservation education and awareness.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Cherokee County amount to \$95,000.

CHESTER

The Chester District's top priorities in utilizing the state cost share funds were (1) to improve water quality through erosion control on cropland, pastureland, and forestland by reducing runoff of sediment, animal waste, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals and (2) to improve the productivity on agricultural and forestlands. Eight projects were approved. Each one of the projects will improve water quality and help control erosion.

Erosion Control On Cropland:

- Two projects consisted of cropland conversion to pastureland. Twenty-two acres of cropland were planted in coastal bermuda sprigging to improve the pastureland quality and quantity and control erosion. It is estimated that 88 tons of soil will be saved through the implementation of this project. A second project included the treatment of critical areas with a ditch clean-out to control gully erosion that would save an estimated 25 tons of soil. Each of these projects will improve water quality by reducing sediment loads and runoff. State cost share funds of \$3,419 were used and matched by \$5,610.

Forestland:

- One project consisted of treating a two acre critical area that would save 34 tons of soil per year and was funded with \$491 of state cost share money and matched by \$491.

Pastureland:

- Four projects consisted of over-seeding of pastureland to improve vegetative cover. The benefits of a conservation of this magnitude is overwhelming. It will improve the productivity of the pastureland grasses and livestock, help control erosion, and improve water quality. These projects included 3,137 acres and are estimated to save 627.4 tons of soil per year. The projects were funded with \$8,959 of state cost share money and matched with \$8,959.

Water Quality Improvements:

- One project included limiting access and reducing sediment loads in streams through installation of water troughs and cross fencing and was funded with \$2,050 of state cost share money and matched with \$2,050.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Chester County amount to \$287,000.

CHESTERFIELD

The Chesterfield District commissioners approved state cost share money to be used in three ways. They are as follows:

1. Approximately \$5,100 has been designated to apply alum to litter in poultry houses on a scheduled basis with participating growers. Litter samples were taken when fresh litter was placed in the houses as a control and then alum is being added after each flock has been removed from the houses and before another flock is placed. The samples are being analyzed by Clemson extension labs to test for available phosphorous levels and concentration levels of ammonia. The test for available "P" is to determine if alum will sufficiently "tie up" the "P" in the litter so when it is applied to soils there will be no continued buildup of available "P" in the soils. The problem is that DHEC has the prerogative to prohibit future applications of poultry litter to those fields that have prohibitive buildup of "P". The tests are inconclusive at this time because all alum has not yet been applied. The theory with ammonia is the alum will reduce the concentrations of ammonia because alum is basic and ammonia is acidic. The hope is this reduction will decrease bird mortality because high concentrations of ammonia are considered toxic to poultry. Cost share match on alum is being partly provided by Clemson Extension in mailing of litter samples and actual testing of samples in their labs and handling by their staff. Balance is management of project by participating growers in getting material to their farm, spreading

into their poultry houses, taking litter samples and record keeping of bird weights and bird mortality. Also, local commissioner A. C. McLeod donated his long distance truck and labor to go to Atlanta to get the material at a trucking cost of \$1.90 per mile for a total of \$1,235.

2. The commissioners approved \$3,608 of cost share funding for pasture aeration. The cost was established at \$8.00 per acre so the pay per acre is \$4.00 per acre. To date, 900 acres have been treated with this practice. The practice was approved because it will result in increased rainfall infiltration into pastureland soils thereby reducing runoff into streams and water bodies of pesticides applied to those fields and manure from grazing cattle. Better infiltration also will reduce whatever soil erosion is evident in the pasture. The cost share on aeration was a \$4.00 per acre in-kind (equipment, fuel, labor) match provided by growers for doing the aeration.

3. Funding is also being used to cost share the construction of border fencing along streams that currently are used as drinking water for cattle. In conjunction with this, funds are being used to construct water lines and install watering tanks to replace the stream as a water source. In addition, cross fencing of pastureland is being done to reduce overgrazing that in turn leads to bare soil and subsequent erosion and degradation of water quality. Obviously, the fencing of cattle from streams will be of much benefit to water quality and reduced soil erosion. The fencing will be constructed this spring. One watering tank has been placed and cost share payment was \$522. The match is at least a 50% match from participating farmers to install these practices. Actually, the actual cost to put down the well for the watering tank was over \$1200 and we only paid the farmer \$522. There remains \$6,300 to be spent on this project.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Chesterfield County amount to \$480,000.

CLARENDON

Clarendon funded six projects. The Town of Turbeville matched \$2,239 of state cost share funds with another \$2,239 to repair a well for 407 households. Turbeville also repaired a waste treatment pump that affected 350 households and matched \$760 of state cost share funds with \$7,816. Waste water pads were installed to prevent groundwater contamination on 600 acres with \$5,941 of state cost share funds that was matched by \$9,000. School environmental clubs were provided \$2,525 and matched with \$3,000. The Town of Summerton planted trees in a green space development

for 2,000 citizens and matched \$2,050 with \$3,500. State cost share in the amount of \$1,483 of state cost share funds were provided to the Council on Aging Environmental Educational Activity Park to benefit over 4,000 senior citizens and 6,000 young people. It was matched with \$4,938.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Clarendon County amount to \$228,000.

COLLETON

The Colleton Conservation District spent \$8,794 on an enclosed pipe to prevent erosion at the Colleton County Recreation Center in Walterboro. 800' of 36" plastic pipe was installed along with two 3'X3'X3' catch basins. The grantee's in-kind match totaled \$10,000.



The Colleton Conservation District awarded \$5,000 to USC Salkehatchie in Walterboro to construct a water garden designed by internationally recognized landscape architecture firm, Robert Marvin and Associates. The water garden is located in the center court of the campus. USC matched our funds with \$12,528.

The Colleton Conservation District awarded \$1,206 to the Colleton County Boy Scouts of America to conduct an Environmental Campout in March of 2000 that they matched with \$1,448. Scouts and Adult Leaders received conservation handbooks, Leave No Trace Guidebooks and merit badge books on soil and water conservation, nature, environmental science, fish and wildlife management and forestry. Michelle Crosby of the DNR conservation district field staff presented a non-point source pollution program to the Scouts. It was a fun, albeit rain-soaked weekend in the woods! One scout proclaimed his camping experience as shocking, "I woke up face-first in a puddle of water this morning! It was cool!"

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Colleton County amount to \$261,000.

DARLINGTON

As for the Darlington District, \$15,000 of state cost share funds was devoted to the establishment of wildlife habitat improvement practices such as the clearing of areas in forestlands to plant wildlife food plots, and to plant wildlife food plots along field borders. Also included was cost sharing for the controlled burning of forestlands to promote forestland floor establishment of native vegetation for wildlife food. The field borders provide excellent transition areas for small game and serve as quail nesting and brooding areas. These practices should begin to be implemented this spring. Funding was extended through 2009 because these practices will be spread out over that period, especially the three year interval on prescribed burning of forestland. The landowners will match with \$15,000.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Darlington County amount to \$507,000.

DILLON

The Dillon Conservation District has obligated their cost share funds of \$15,000 to assist Dillon County with maintenance on the Maple Swamp Watershed. This project was built in the 1960's and hasn't been maintained since its construction. The county and town will be matching with approximately \$85,000.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Dillon County amount to \$425,000.

DORCHESTER

The Dorchester Conservation District awarded \$15,000 in cost share funding to the Town of Summerville for the continuing effort towards the Sawmill Branch Hiker/Biker Trail. The Sawmill Branch is a 7-mile drainage corridor running through the center of Town from I-26 to the Ashley River. The Town of Summerville's total in matching funds is \$26,905.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Dorchester County amount to \$341,000.

EDGEFIELD

The Edgefield District selected priorities based on local needs. Forage management and water quality were at the top of the list. The use of no-till type equipment for planting and replanting were included as an approved practice. Woodland erosion was considered as a factor in planning due to the economic impact of forestry. Each potential participant received a needs assessment by the professional staff prior to writing

their plan. Their needs were analyzed and site specific plans were prepared to guide the participants to successfully installing their chosen practices.

Forestland soil loss reduction amounted to 250 tons and pastureland soil loss reduction was 350 tons. \$15,000 of state cost share money was matched by the individuals on a 50-50 match.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Edgefield County amount to \$448,512.

FAIRFIELD

The Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District utilized the \$15,000 state cost share funds on several innovative projects and programs. Erosion Control and Water Quality were listed as top priorities. Therefore, efforts to prevent and enhance the respective priorities were implemented. Cross-fencing was installed on several farms to reduce soil erosion caused by heavy grazing. Also, a rotational grazing program was incorporated in conjunction with pasture renovation to relieve over grazing by cattle. Waterbars were installed on access roads to land users' property to prevent soil erosion caused by formation of gulleys and tire ruts on roads. Over 1,500 acres were treated with state cost share funds. The landowners matched cost share funds on a 50/50 basis. Thus, \$15,000.00 leveraged another \$15,000 in conservation measures installed.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Fairfield County amount to \$250,000.

FLORENCE

The Florence District partnered with the county to establish facilities at Lynches River County Park that promote environmental education. A 1,200 foot boardwalk is being built on the site. The estimated cost of the finished product is \$150,000. The Florence District has obligated \$15,000 and Florence County has matched with \$15,000. Additional \$120,000 of funding is being sought.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Florence County amount to \$357,000.

GEORGETOWN

The Georgetown District priorities were to fund unmet erosion control, water quality, and tree establishment requests from the EQIP and FIP programs of the US Department of Agriculture. \$3,712 was spent on permanent pasture establishment, \$1,312 was spent on critical area treatment, and \$1,107 was spent on tree establishment. Another \$5,618 is being spent on

tree establishment this winter. \$2,500 was spent to plant filter strips to control erosion at a Georgetown County Park. All of these funds were obligated as 50% cost share with the nine landowners. In several cases, the landowners spent more than the required match. On practices completed thus far, this is approaching a 3:1 leverage of the funds.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Georgetown County amount to \$45,000.

GREENVILLE

The Greenville SWCD accepted applications from the public for the disbursement of the cost share funds. The applications were ranked by a point system that gave credit for eliminating non-point sources of pollution, value as a demonstration site, and other environmental criteria important to the Commissioners in Greenville County. The District was able to fund 10 projects on a 50-50 basis. The Commissioners approved five projects that dealt with pasture management. Components of these projects were fencing cattle out of streams, providing alternative watering sources for cattle, waste management, and cross fencing for rotational grazing plans. These practices significantly decrease the sources of sediments and nutrients that enter the local streams. The District provided \$7,416 towards those projects.

The Commissioners approved two projects that dealt with the improvement of wildlife habitat. Components of those projects were field borders and seeding roads and open areas. In addition to providing habitat, the borders acted as filter strips for any sediment, pesticides, or fertilizers that may be suspended in runoff from agricultural areas. The vegetation will now stabilize the roads and open areas. Also, erosion will be reduced. The District provided \$3,938.40 towards those projects. The Commissioners approved two projects that dealt with planting permanent vegetation on critically eroding areas. Both of the areas were along water bodies and contributed significantly to their filling with sediment. The District provided \$1,145 towards those projects. The Commissioners funded one project dealing with the placement of a flow meter on the South Saluda River. The project was a joint effort between the Greenville SWCD, the Pickens SWCD, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The data from the meter will be used to chart the effect of heavy rainfall on the rivers elevation. This information can be useful in mapping floodplains, charting the effects of increased impervious surfaces, and charting the Total Maximum Daily Loads that the river is able to accept. The District provided \$2,435 towards the project. The remaining \$65 was approved by the Commissioners to be spent on a Writeable Compact Disc Drive for the District's computer

system. Greenville County provided \$150 towards the purchase.

Unfunded projects for which there is documented need in Greenville County for similar projects amount to \$92,432.

GREENWOOD

The Greenwood District selected priorities based on local needs. Forage management and water quality were at the top of the list. The use of no-till type equipment for planting and replanting were included as approved practice. Woodland erosion was considered as a factor in planning due to the economic impact of forestry. Each potential participant received a needs assessment by the professional staff prior to writing their plan. Their needs were analyzed and site specific plans were prepared to guide the participants to successfully installing their chosen practices.

The Greenwood District chose to include the education community in the cost share process by assisting with the restoration of this impacted urban stream that will be used for water quality studies.



Soil loss reductions in cropland amounted to approximately 860 tons with 250 tons of forestland soil loss reduction and 350 tons of pastureland soil loss reduction.

\$15,000 of state cost share funds was used in these projects with match of equal value from the recipients.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Greenwood County for similar projects are approximately \$75,000.

HAMPTON

Hampton Conservation District used \$4,663 to fund FIP applications that could not be funded with federal funds. These were a 50-50 cost-share for practices such as planting, herbicide treatment, site preparation, and timber stand improvement.

The Town of Estill received a \$4,300 grant. This project was an integral component of a revitalization project for the town totaling over \$100,000. Agencies partnered with the town are SC Department of History and Archives, SC Arts Commission, SC Department of Transportation, and SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. The natural area with trails will be bordered by the new health center, town hall, the elementary school, and the restored Bull Durham Building. This natural area will be easily accessible to all residents.

The balance of the cost share funds (\$5,674) were used as 50-50 match with schools for natural resource conservation education grants.

Total funds used for six projects were \$76,580. That's a 5:1 return.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Hampton County amount to \$70,000.

HORRY

The Horry District chose to fund unmet erosion control, water quality, and tree establishment requests from the EQIP and FIP programs of the US Department of Agriculture with most of their cost share money. \$4,268 was spent on permanent pasture establishment, \$3,002 was spent on filter strips, \$1,175 was spent on nutrient management, \$308 was spent on critical area treatment, \$2,400 on a poultry incinerator, and \$1,150 was spent on tree establishment. \$1,418 is being spent this winter on permanent pasture establishment and \$529 is being spent this winter on tree establishment. All of these funds were obligated as 50-50 cost share with the fifteen landowners. In several cases, the landowners spent more than the required match. On practices completed thus far, this is approaching a 3:1 leverage of the funds.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Horry County amount to \$1,675,000.

JASPER

The Blue Heron Nature Center is the third phase and final phase for the Blue Heron Learning Center. In May 1999, the Jasper Conservation District purchased 1 acre of land adjacent to 10 acres of conservation easements that the District holds. In December 1999, official fund-raising began. By May 2000, the District had raised over \$190,000 in private donations and grants toward the nature center. In August 2000, construction began on the 4,200 sq.ft. log cabin. Since then, the log cabin has been "dried-in" and the district has raised another \$100,000.



The hardwood floor still needs to be installed as well as the heating/air conditioning. Donations are still coming in and grants are being applied for. The District has awarded \$15,000 to this project. We are looking at a completion date of Summer 2001. The total cost of the Blue Heron Learning Center Building will be approximately \$450,000. That's a 30:1 return on the state cost share funds.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Jasper County amount to \$10,000.

KERSHAW

The Kershaw Soil and Water Conservation District utilized the \$15,000 state cost share funds on several innovative projects and programs. Water Quality was listed as the top priority of the district. Concern about dead bird burial pits was very high on the district's agenda. Therefore, the district cost-shared with a local turkey grower in disposing of dead birds utilizing the Compost Method. This method proved very economical due to alternative construction of stacking sheds versus NRCS's standards with concrete flooring. A total of \$7,500 was matched on a 50/50 cost-share basis to implement this project.

Also, landowners approved for the Forest Incentive Program were contracted on a 50/50 cost share basis with state cost share funds of \$7,500 to plant trees and improve wildlife habitats.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Kershaw County are \$235,000.

LANCASTER

Two projects consisted of critical area stabilization on school grounds at Indian Land High School and Andrew Jackson High School. Together, these two

projects saved an estimated 18 tons of soil per year. Benefits also include improving water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient entering water sources, as well as, aesthetic improvements to the landscape on these school grounds. \$3,095 of state cost share funds matched by \$9,198 from the school district.

Another project with the City of Lancaster consisted of critical area stabilization through prevention of gully erosion. The City of Lancaster had a major problem at their cascade outfall site where thousands of gallons of water had continually splashed out of the outfall creating a huge gully and exposing the main sewer drainpipe. This also threatened a wetland area that was just downward of the outfall site. The grant allowed the City to control the soil erosion and gully formation, which in turn, also improved water quality on a major river in Lancaster County and protected a wetland area. An estimated 700 tons of soil had been lost from this site. Furthermore, by correcting this problem, the city will be able to maintain sewer operation and service for the City of Lancaster and provide septic tank pump out services for servers in the county. This has an impact on over 20,000 people that reside in Lancaster County. State cost share funds amounted to \$7,591 that was matched by the City for \$7,591.



Two projects consisting of stream bank stabilization processes to control soil erosion, improve water quality and reduce flooding potential were funded with \$2,6876 to the Katawba Valley Land Trust and \$887 to Max Hinson, an individual. They matched the

projects with an equal amount of money. Bendway weirs were installed at each of these sites to promote the stability of the stream banks, which will reduce the amount of flooding and sedimentation.

Both sites have been experiencing increased expansion pressures from the City of Charlotte. Flooding is impacting pastureland and sensitive areas.

Another project consisted of warm season grass planting to improve grasslands and rotational grazing. The benefits of this project are multifaceted, (1) this will promote increased nutrient uptake, (2) improved infiltration which will reduce runoff and potential water pollution, (3) increased pest management, (4) improved weight gain and nutrient benefit to cattle, and (5) increased native wildlife habitat. This was funded by state cost share of \$539 and matched with \$539.

Finally, the last project consisted of purchase of an Enviroscope for environmental education and outreach with \$887 of state cost share funds. The use of this model will increase awareness about the importance of natural resources. The model will also provide hands-on educational opportunities. Models are available through checkout procedure in Lancaster County.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Lancaster County amount to \$34,601.

LAURENS

The Laurens District used \$15,000 of state cost share funds matched by \$56,260 from the county to protect ground water, streams, lakes, fish, and wildlife by removing roadside litter and potential hazardous waste from the 800 miles of Laurens County roads.

Heavy debris such



as truck tires and auto batteries and other trash were removed. At one creek, fifteen auto batteries were found in one location.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Laurens County amount to \$34,000.

LEE

The Lee County District voted to spend \$15,000 of state cost share funds on a Landowner Beaver Assistance Program. It is the first of its kind in South Carolina. A landowner/user experiencing beaver damage signs up to receive up to 8 hours of training from an experienced trapper on trapping beaver(s) to eliminate this problem. The county provided \$15,000 of matching funds.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Lee County amount to \$397,000.

LEXINGTON

The Lexington District identified four program areas to receive funds from the cost share funds: Tree Planting, Grazing Management, Pasture/Hay Planting, and Conservation Education. \$8,346 of state cost share funds were spent on tree planting and matched by \$12,518. Projects for grazing management received \$2,445 of state cost share funds and were matched by \$2,445. Another \$3,102 was spent on pasture/hay planting and matched by \$3,102. All of these projects' matching share was provided by the landowners.

Conservation education projects received \$1,107 and were matched by \$1,107 from Lake Murray magazine and the SC Wildlife Federation.

A total of \$34,172 was spent on these projects.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Lexington County amount to \$87,022.

MARION

All the conservation cost share plantings in the Marion Conservation District were cost shared at 50% of the establishment cost. The Marion Conservation District assisted three farmers with establishing pastures. Over 125 acres of pasture (\$7,926) were established to assist farmers in diversifying their farming operations. More than 150 tons of soil will be saved per year on these pasturelands. Trees were planted by one of the cooperators on 11.7 acres (\$395). These planted pines will protect the previously farmed land from erosion. The remaining money available in the cost share account (\$5,928) will be utilized to assist with more pasture planting and assisting farmers with cost share payments to no-till plant their soybeans after wheat harvest.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Marion County amount to \$215,000.

MARLBORO

The Marlboro District spent \$10,000 of the cost share money on the promotion and establishment of no-till cotton planting. The commissioners determined the cost to plant an acre of no-till cotton at \$20 per acre.



Since this was a 50% cost share program, they paid the participating farmers \$10 per acre to establish the practice and the farmers' share totaled \$10,000. Applications were taken and a ranking system was put in place to award the money to those farmers whose lands had the most potential to erode and introduce sediment and pesticides into nearby streams and water bodies. So those lands with higher erodibility factors and those closest to streams and water bodies received the highest rankings and subsequent funding. As a result, 1,000 acres were planted to no-till cotton in Marlboro County. The commissioners viewed this as a "demonstration project" to promote the concept of no-till cotton planting throughout the county.

The other \$5,000 of state cost share funds and \$5,000 from farmers were used similarly to promote furrow diking for the same conservation reason and using the same ranking criteria. The cost to establish this practice was set at \$8 per acre so the farmers were paid \$4 per acre to establish the practice. 1,250 acres were treated with this conservation practice.



Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Marlboro County are \$388,000.

MCCORMICK

The McCormick District selected priorities based on local needs. Forage management and water quality were at the top of the list. The use of no-till type equipment for planting and replanting were included as approved practice. Woodland erosion was considered as a factor in planning due to the economic impact of forestry. Each potential participant received a needs assessment by the professional staff prior to writing their plan. Their needs were analyzed and site specific plans were prepared to guide the participants to successfully installing their chosen practices.



Forestland soil loss reduction amounted to 250 tons and pastureland soil loss reduction was 350 tons. \$15,000 of cost share funds was matched by \$15,000 from the individuals who participated.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in McCormick County amount to \$85,000.

NEWBERRY

The Newberry District provided \$5,000 to a landowner for a constructed wetland to reduce seepage from their septic tank into Lake Murray. It was matched with \$6,000 from the landowner and \$9,000 from the US Department of Agriculture. A pasture aerator was purchased by the District to be used by a number of landowners. Cost share funds of \$3,955 were used and \$3,956 by individuals. A nutrient management program was funded with \$2,876 of state cost share funds and matched with \$2,482 by the individual.



A water quality project received \$2,174 from state cost share and \$2,174 from the US Department of Agriculture. \$994 has been extended because the project was not complete.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Newberry County amount to \$660,793.

OCONEE

Oconee Conservation District used some of their cost share funding to provide natural resources enhancement grants to local schools. Nine \$500 grants were awarded to eight different schools to provide educational opportunities for students to learn about natural resources of Oconee County. Projects included planting butterfly gardens, installing raised flower beds and vegetable gardens, restoring and improving a nature trail, landscaping an outdoor classroom, planting trees and installing bird boxes to provide wildlife habitat, and stabilizing eroding areas on school grounds. Total cost for projects exceeded \$9,000. The schools received a total of \$4,500 in cost share funds.

Wayne Orr, a local dairy operator, used cost share funds to install a constructed wetland for his 80 head dairy operation. He will be able to treat 1,577 tons of waste per year with the constructed wetland. His project will be used as a demonstration site to show other local dairy operators the benefits of constructed wetlands for treating waste water and improving water quality of area streams. Mr. Orr received \$5,000 in cost share funds to implement his practices and matched with \$5,038 of money, in-kind services, and donated supplies.

Oconee County has four more participants that have received extensions to complete their practices. Their practices include tree planting which is estimated to save 324 tons of soil loss per acre per year when completed. The total cost of the four projects is \$12,410 and the participants will match with \$7,446 to state cost share of \$4,964.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Oconee County are \$30,000.

ORANGEBURG

The Orangeburg District provided its state cost share funds for tree planting, no-till cropland planting practice, and other cropland practices. Nathaniel Martin prepared a 17 acre site to plant trees. Cost Share amount was \$1,870 and the cost share amount of \$2,805 was matched with funds from US Department of Agriculture. Nathan Boylston prepared a 25 acre site to plant trees. Cost share amount was \$2,750 and

match of \$4,125 was paid by US Department of Agriculture. Earl Knotts, Jr. prepared 34 acre site to plant trees. Cost share amount was \$3,740 and match of \$5,610 was provided by US Department of Agriculture. A. W. Dannelly introduced no-till planting practice on 11 acres and received state cost share funds of \$330. His match amounted to \$465. Barry R Hutto introduced Integrated Crop Management practices and received state cost share funding of \$831 with his match being \$975. Marvin E Ott's hayland planting received state cost share funding of \$410 with his match being \$410.

Unfunded projects for which there are applications for similar projects amount to \$42,500.

PICKENS

The Pickens SWCD accepted applications from the public for the disbursement of the state cost share funds. The applications were ranked by a point system that gave credit for eliminating non-point sources of pollution, value as a demonstration site, and other environmental criteria important to the Commissioners in Pickens County. The District was able to fund nine projects on a 50-50 cost share basis with the individuals. The Commissioners approved four projects that dealt with pasture management. Aspects of these projects were fencing cattle out of streams, providing alternative watering sources for the cattle, and rotational grazing fencing. These practices will take areas out of pasture that introduce sediment and nutrients into local streams. The District provided \$4,727 toward those projects.

The Commissioners approved two projects that dealt with converting critically eroding land into permanent pasture. It is estimated that those practices will prohibit almost 525 tons per year of sediment from reaching local streams and ponds. The District provided \$5,171 toward those projects.

The Commissioners approved two projects that dealt with making improvements to logging roads. In Pickens County, the steep slopes cause the runoff to have a high velocity when running down the logging roads. That velocity suspends more sediment and contributes to major erosion damage to the roads. The funds enabled the participants to build waterbars and broad-based dips along the roads. Those practices will slow the water down and inhibit soil movement. It is estimated that almost 600 tons per year of sediment will be prohibited from reaching local streams and ditches. The District provided \$4,302 toward those practices.

The Commissioners approved one project that dealt with the proper construction of a driveway on steep slopes. Many of the homes in Pickens County are built on steep slopes. The drives to these homes prove to be major sources of sediment when they are not constructed properly and the terrain is not taken into account. The District and the participant hope that the drive they are constructing will be a model for proper drive construction in steep terrain condition. The District is providing \$800 towards this project.

Unfunded projects for which there is a documented need in cost-share funds for similar projects in Pickens County are \$40,000.

RICHLAND

The District had three main projects funded through cost share. An Education Specialist was hired to coordinate the programs offered at the Sand Hill Conservation Station. \$6,000 of state cost share funding was matched by the county. A symposium was held with the Soil and Water Conservation Society with lectures on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), new EPA standards/restrictions, and new technologies in conservation. The Society matched on a 50-50 basis the \$5,000 of state cost share funds. Another \$2,538 was cost shared on a 50-50 basis with the Richland School District II for an outreach program to young African-American males. At a Natural Resource Conservation Camp, they learned about careers in natural resources.

The remaining \$1,461 is being cost shared with E. E. Taylor Elementary School and a private contractor who will match with \$1,461 to establish a Nature/Fitness Trail at the school using Nutrabond, a product made of plant enzymes used to “seal” direct roads and trails preventing soil erosion.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Richland County amount to \$491,656.

SALUDA

The Saluda District spent \$3,582 of their cost share money on a pasture aerator. This was a 50-50 cost share match with the total cost of the aerator being \$7,162.50. Saluda is one of the State’s larger producers of poultry and cattle. A need was established for aeration of the fields where animal waste is being applied. The district hopes that the field (pasture) aerator will slow the nutrient run-off, thus resulting directly in improved pasture and water quality. An experiment funded by an EPA 319 grant is sampling pasture run-off from aerated and non-aerated sections of a pasture. The District is hoping to get hard numbers

that will give credibility to the aeration theory. To date, approximately 1,000 acres of fields that are receiving animal waste have been aerated.



\$675.00 dollars of Saluda’s cost share funds were used to help re-plant 25 acres of loblolly pines that were lost due to the drought. The landowner matched with \$675. This worked out to a rate of \$54.00 dollars per acre.

The Saluda District has cost shared with local landowners to help with soil sampling for nutrient management of pastures. 186 soil samples were taken and analyzed for nutrients. The sampling covered close to 2,790 acres. State cost share funded \$1,440 and \$1,440 was matched by individuals and US Department of Agriculture.

The District has several projects to be completed in the spring of this year including cost share in several constructed wetlands and with pasture aeration. The constructed wetlands will be funded with \$4,000 of state cost share money, US Department of Agriculture will match with \$10,000, and individuals will match with \$5,000. The District share of the pasture aeration is \$4,663 to be matched with \$4,663 from individuals.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Saluda County amount to \$233,000.

SPARTANBURG

The Spartanburg SWCD accepted applications from the public for the disbursement of the state cost share funds. The applications were ranked by a point system that gave credit for eliminating non-point sources of pollution, value as a demonstration site, and other environmental criteria important to the Commissioners in Spartanburg County. The District was able to fund sixteen projects on a 50-50 matching basis from the individuals.

The Commissioners approved eleven projects that dealt with the establishment of permanent vegetation of critically eroding areas. Components of those projects were strip-cropping, treatments on eroding hillsides, and the planting of fescue in peach orchard middles. The orchard middles projects were particularly effective in reducing the amounts of fertilizers and pesticides carried by runoff from the orchards. The District provided \$8,788 towards these projects.

The Commissioners approved three projects that dealt with forestry. Components of those projects were tree planting in clear-cut areas and the use of time release fertilizers. The District provided \$1,073 towards these projects.

The Commissioners approved two projects that dealt with the closeouts of wastewater lagoons associated with dairy operations. The lagoons were major sources of non-point source pollution, particularly in times of heavy rain when the lagoons overflowed. In addition to providing cost-share funds, the District provided the technical information needed to complete the closeouts. The District provided \$4,890 towards these projects.

The Commissioners approved the remaining funds to be used to hold an informational breakfast for the various agricultural agencies in Spartanburg County. The breakfast was expanded to include Union and Cherokee Counties. The breakfast was a platform for the various agencies to explain their organizations' programs. The District provided \$249 towards the breakfast with Cherokee and Union Conservation Districts providing matching amounts.

Unfunded projects for which there is a documented need in cost-share funds for similar projects in Spartanburg County are \$73,176.

SUMTER

The Sumter Conservation District utilized the \$15,000.00 in State Cost Share Funds on several innovative projects. Water Quality and Wildlife Management are high priorities for the district. A concern for animal waste and its proper disposal was addressed via manure stacking shed concept. Prior disposal consisted mainly of spreading the manure (non-composted) on pastures regardless of amount needed on land. The conservation district cost shared with a local turkey producer to build manure-stacking sheds to facilitate proper handling of this manure. The stacking sheds allow the animal waste to undergo gradual composting, thus rendering it less harmful to the environment in terms of run-off affecting water quality. A total of \$8,195 was matched on a 50/50 basis from the producer to implement this project.

Wildlife enhancement was another priority for the Sumter Conservation District. The District contracted with landowners on a 50/50 State Cost Share Fund to plant long-leaf pine trees in order to enhance wildlife habitat and assist in controlling soil erosion. A total of \$6,805 was matched on a 50/50 basis to achieve this effort.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Sumter County amount to \$200,000.

UNION

The Union Conservation District funded ten requests totaling \$38,520. The District supported 38.6% of the costs with state cost share funds and the landowners contributed 61.4% as match. Funds were used to reestablish pastures to prevent soil erosion following a period of drought.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Union County amount to \$52,000.

WILLIAMSBURG

All the conservation plantings in the Williamsburg Conservation District were cost shared at 50% of the establishment cost. The Williamsburg Conservation District assisted two farmers with establishing pastures. Over 25 acres of pasture (\$2,616) were established to assist farmers in diversifying their farming operations. Over 35 tons of soil will be saved per year on these pasturelands. Trees were planted by three landowners on 159 acres (\$6,542). These pines were planted on cut over timber sites. The remaining cost share funds (\$5,090) will be spent on more pasture establishment with cross fencing and watering facilities, and to assist farmers with cost share payments for no-till planting of soybeans.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in Williamsburg County amount to \$155,000.

YORK

The York Conservation District's top priorities in utilizing the cost share funds were to enhance the natural resource base of York County by addressing 1)-water quality issues and 2)-soil erosion issues. These goals were accomplished by targeting specific issues such as reducing animal waste runoff, which would, in effect, reduce nutrient and pesticide loads upon water sources. By reducing soil erosion through the installation of cattle ramps, water troughs, stream crossings for cattle, and cross fencing, productivity is increased on agricultural and forestlands.

The York Conservation District approved and executed five projects with the help of the State Cost Share Program. The projects were chosen based on the priorities mentioned above. Each project will improve water quality and reduce soil erosion.

Erosion Control On Pastureland:

- 5100 feet of ramps
- 5792 feet of fencing
- 400 feet of diversion
- 150 foot well
- 950 feet of pipeline
- 3 troughs

Each of the above conservation practices were installed in heavy use areas to reverse soil erosion problems. This will also reduce sediment loads and runoff of harmful chemicals, which will significantly improve water quality conditions in these areas.

Water Quality Improvements:

- 5805 feet of heavy use area plantings
- 2880 feet of stream crossing
- 225 feet of critical area treatments with pasture plantings
- 4205 feet of pond enhancement

The above listed conservation practices were also installed/executed in heavy use or critical areas. These practices will reduce soil erosion, improve productivity, and greatly improve water quality through reducing nutrient, sedimentation and pesticide loads on water sources.

In conclusion, each practice mentioned above has a multifaceted effect on the natural resources of York County. Each project will not only improve soil erosion problems but will also improve water quality. Because our environment is so inter-related that when we can reverse or prevent one environmental concern that degrades the health of the land or water we will, in turn, see other benefits within the system.

Unfunded projects for which applications have been received in York County amount to \$294,000.

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